

Fourth in a row was a grinder for Lady Bucs

It may not be getting easier with time and practice...

Although the Shelton State Lady Buccaneers won their fourth Alabama community college conference championship in a row March—and by an almost-comfortable margin of eight points—in many ways this one must have seemed the hardest.

"I'd definitely say we had to do the dirty work, the gritty work, to win this ballgame," Head Coach Madonna Thompson said to some reporters on the floor of Wallace of Hanceville after the game. "It came down to defense."

The Shelton State team beat Alabama Southern from Monroeville 62-50 on Thursday, March 5.

By winning its fourth straight ACCC title, Shelton State qualified as the Region

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They did it again!



Both the women and men Buccaneers celebrated championships in Hanceville.

Injuries put likely championship in doubt

By LaJay Sears

Shelton State basketball team has been through a lot this season, but still able to attain a record of 32-4. The sophomores this year were Brandon Williams, Trevell Coleman, Charles Perona, Brain Reid, and LaJay Sears.

The season started off well, after the two opening losses far away from home.

We had a 31 game winning streak going into the state tournament. Before the tournament started four members of the Shelton State basketball team were hospitalized in stable condition after sustaining injuries in a single vehicle accident in Wilcox County.

This incident really affected the team in many ways because they were a big part of who we are. Our coach, Barry Mohun, told us the accident should motivate us even more going into the state tournament. We had it in our minds to win it for them.

We practiced hard every day, but still their presence

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Conference asked the question: 'Are you ready?'

Shelton State Community College hosted a series of disaster preparedness seminars and informational displays on Wednesday, March 25, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., at its Martin campus. The event was designed to help the West Alabama community prepare for a variety of crisis situations.

Presentations ranging from weather emergencies to pandemic influenza were open to the public at no cost, along with displays with information from the Alabama Poison Center, Red Cross, First Responders, Tuscaloosa County Health Department, Alabama Department of

Public Health, and the Alabama Fire College.

Nurses also gained contin-

held in the Ryan DeGraffenreid lecture hall included

"Pandemic Influenza," by Tommy Dockery, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, ADPH, Area 3; "Weather Emergencies" by Wes Wyatt, WVUA TV; "Disaster Field Management" by Glenn Davis, Emergency Medical Services; "Hospital Management During Disasters" by Paul Abel, DCH Medical Center; "Psychological Preparedness/Care of the Disabled Population" by



Wes Wyatt from WVUA TV spoke about weather emergencies.

uing education credit for attending.

Lecture presentations

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Inside

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Student publishes murder mystery

By Joshua Moulton

Cody Dearman, a student at Shelton State Community College, has just, as of February, released his first published book.

The novel, *Last Minute News*, was published by an online company

The story is a dramatic, suspenseful murder scenario with a plot twist at the end.

The entire novel is based around a family setting that slowly erupts into complete chaos and violence, ending in murder and suicide. The inspira-

Publication of the novel, according to Dearman, was fairly easy and hassle-free.

Dearman simply submitted the novel and was referred to several companies to choose from. "The very next day, I received a phone call from two different publishing companies, and I eventually decided to work with BookSurge, a subsidiary of Amazon.com. The workers at BookSurge take great care of the author's needs."

The company gave him complete creative control and allowed him to choose fonts, a cover, and the designs he wanted in the book.

Dearman is negotiating to have his book offered at Barnes and Noble Bookstore in Tuscaloosa; however a date has not been set. "If it happens, we'll have an author's book signing; then go from there," Dearman said.



Whodunit?

Shelton student Cody Dearman recently unveiled his initial work of published fiction: *Last Minute News*.

which produced his work for a small fee.

The novel is a compelling and exciting story with the basis on a real person whom he personally knows.

tion behind the story was his best friend and a private matter with his friend's family.

However, the drama is greatly exaggerated in the novel.

Ready

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Leslie Dawson, Department of Rehabilitation; and "Disaster/Emergency Response" by Bill Marable, American Red Cross.

The college's Nursing program was pleased to schedule the event because, for one reason, students are tested on NCLEX (licensure exam) about disasters/ bioterrorism, and other emergency situations.

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words,

Shelton State's Director of Nursing, Kim Smith, felt the students could get more from the hands-on displays and lectures than they could cover in a 3-hour class period.

"We also offered the event as a 4 contact hour CE offering for licensed nurses (nurses must have 12 contact hours per year to maintain their license)," Smith explained.

Among the interesting talks was a lecture by Tommy Dockery, from the Alabama Department of Public Health. He pulled no punches in describing to the nearly full lecture classroom of about 200, the chaos that would ensue and the high percentage of people bound to be infected if the bird flu ever became pandemic in the United States.

Weather emergencies were discussed by WVUA's Wes Wyatt who showed the assem-

blage some behind-the scenes shots of the TV station tracking foul weather. One eye-opening tidbit from Wyatt is that this area is the only place in the world that experiences two distinct and full-force severe weather seasons. He said we don't get as many tornadoes as Kansas and Texas, but we do suffer from more intense ones. Wyatt said the more famous tornado path in the west is called Tornado Alley, but the South has its own area of frequent incidence called "Dixie Alley."

Smith said the nurses and student nurses in attendance got some vital hands-on contact with the accoutrement of emergency situations. "Students really enjoyed trying on the Haz Mat uniform used for chemical spills, etc., and the Fireman's uniform," Smith indicated.

"Lois Dorough and Dr.

Fisher from Poison Control had us all fooled. They made it clear, if we weren't careful we'd be drinking window cleaner thinking it was powerade or brushing our teeth with Aspercreme," Smith related.

"The Meth lab awareness was also very informative," Smith said, "and the students really enjoyed the talks on field management and hospital management of casualties."

"Red Cross had info on Automatic External defibrillator (AED's)—like the one we have at the Security Desk and in the gym."

A couple of exciting opportunities that didn't pan out so well happened because of the day's inclement weather. A helicopter was scheduled to land on campus and the communications truck was parked out front but didn't get as much attention as the planners had hoped.



Monica Lee and Robyn Alexander staffed the Red Cross of West Alabama information table.

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Shelton State Courier

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The Shelton State Courier is a campus newspaper, written and produced with the help of students.

Among its functions, it is intended as a vehicle for student expression, and all students are urged to participate with submissions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic freedom in working with the students in the pro-

duction of this paper.

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsibility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.

The Courier is an equal opportunity employer and student organization. All students are encouraged to participate.

PTK hosts regional convention at Shelton

By Victoria Corley

After a successful year dedicated to growing, learning, and service to Shelton State, the officers of Phi Theta Kappa hosted the 2009 Alabama Regional Convention.

Hosting this event required hours of preparation. In the end, Shelton's Phi Theta Kappa officers were greatly rewarded for all of their hard work.

"After having to do so much throughout the year, it feels good to help organize a weekend to celebrate all of the hard work of other chapters from the state of Alabama," said Justin Grimes, Alabama Region President.

The Regional Convention began on Friday March 6 with a silent auction for the American Cancer Society. After the silent auction closed, every chapter did an individual roll call. For the roll call, every chapter performed a cheer that they made up to represent their chapter. The roll call was a way to use "public humiliation" as an ice breaker. After an hour of roll call, the guest to Shelton state listened to a very special guest speaker.

The highlight of the night was guest speaker education instructor and part-time professional comedian Dr. Allen Mallory.

Mallory set the mood for the rest of the convention. Every person in the room was laughing and having

fun. His stories about life and the journey of college were relatable to everyone present. His humorous skit and open friendly personality made everyone in the room feel more comfortable. Continuing with the theme of laughter and fun, the night ended with a special party.

With jitters over, everyone ended the night with a disco in the atrium. With lights, a DJ, and plenty of music, it was interesting to see students and sponsors turning Shelton State into a small night club.

Officer Mallory Banks said, "I have never had so much fun at school!" as she did the cupid shuffle.

After the late night dance party, the first day of the Regional Convention was over.

The mood of the second day was more serious. This day the visitors to Shelton State were privileged to a college fair that was exclusive to Phi Theta Kappa members. The college fair allowed students to talk to representatives from universities in Alabama and learn what these schools have to offer. Although the college fair was rewarding, it was not quite as satisfying as the ceremony held that night.

The final, and most important, event of the 2009 Alabama Regional Convention was the Hallmark Awards Gala. This formal event was a special awards ceremony to honor the individuals and chapters



that have had great success throughout the year, and have demonstrated leadership, scholarship, and service in their school and community.

Although it was special for many, this night was especially important for Shelton State.

Guests of honor for the night were Dr. and Mrs. Heinrich and assistant to the president Dr. and Mrs. Graham Hatcher. Also on hand was regional

sponsor and former Shelton dean and his wife, Dr. Humphrey Lee.

Too, it was a special night because the Alpha Epsilon Iota Chapter of PTK at Shelton was bestowed with numerous awards for individual accomplishment and for the success of the chapter as a whole.

During the ceremony, two members received The Order of the Golden Key. Admission into The Order of the Golden Key is offered

exclusively to those chapter members, officers, and presidents whose outstanding contributions have advanced their chapter's goals in Phi Theta Kappa's Hallmarks of Scholarship, Leadership,

received a Paragon Award. This award is given to advisors who have been with a chapter for fewer than five years and show excellence in guiding the organization.

Last but not least, the



Enjoying the festivities at the regional Phi Theta Kappa meeting at Shelton are (front, L-R) Claire Brock, Julia Speights, Elaine Heinrich and President Mark Heinrich; (middle) Amanda Corker, Laci Crimm, Brittney Lee, Courtney Cloud and Holly Willis; (back) Justin Grimes, Victoria Corley, Anne Shows, Kenneth Patterson and Lindsay Cook.

Service, and Fellowship.

First, I, Victoria Corley, was awarded one of only five Most Distinguished Chapter officer awards that night. And president of our chapter, Justin Grimes, received one of only four Most Distinguished Chapter President Awards.

The next day, Grimes said, "It was fulfilling hearing my name being called; I knew then that all of my hard work had paid off."

One of the Shelton State advisors, Julia Speights

Alpha Epsilon Iota chapter at Shelton State received a Five Star rating; this is the highest rating a chapter can receive.

This was a very successful year for Shelton State's Phi Theta Kappa. Hosting the 2009 Alabama Regional Convention seemed to be the icing on the cake. All of the old and new officers that were present at the weekend event said they had an amazing time and they were all really proud to be a part of the "wonderful event."

Did your spring break just right?

Tales...

Singing Lesson By Wes Jones

This spring break, my sister-in-law's sister was getting married in Gulf Shores.

Both families are very close to each other, so we were invited to the wedding, and asked to help with the planning and all. I was not able to help with the planning, but wanted to be as much a part of the wedding as I could, so I was asked to play the songs "I have and Always Will," by Dave Barnes, and the Lord's Prayer. I happily agreed to do so, as I am already in a successful band as the lead guitar player, but I also have a good background of singing as well.

In preparation for this song, I had to take many steps. First I had to find the song on the Internet so that I was able to listen to it. Then I had to figure out how to play the song, and its chords.

However, I listened to the song, and the many different versions of tabs, which are the written versions of chords, were completely different from the song. So, my next

the best. I had to watch the kid that was playing as he was changing chords, and where he was placing his hands on the neck of the guitar.

To practice the song, I listened to the video I liked best over and over, until I remembered when to change chords, and the lyrics. Once, I had all that down, I set up my P.A. system at my house, with a microphone, and my guitar so I could hear myself as I played. Usually when someone starts singing through a microphone, their voice goes flat, because the tones change at different volumes. So I had to practice my best to not go flat through any parts and get the jitters out of my system. The more I sang the song, and heard myself, the more confident I got. I felt very prepared the day we left for the beach.

However, my allergies had kicked in when we got down there, and I couldn't breathe at all and was feeling terrible all day. My uncles, and my dad were all trying to help by giving me different medicines that would help relieve the inflammation.

The night before the wedding, I stopped taking all the medicine, and let it heal on its own. I woke up on Saturday morning feeling like a new man, and I could breathe finally. I wanted to keep the stress level down, so my girlfriend and I took a nice relaxing day down on the beach and lay out in the sand. When it came time to get ready, my father and I had to set up our P.A. system and do sound checks. I was slightly nervous when I got up to sing, but when I hit the first note of the song, it was a smooth ride from there on. And everybody enjoyed it. I was happy that I could do my part in the wedding for the girl I would consider as my sister.

With Dad...



By Brian Doty

House Break By Cody Dearman

Another Spring Break has come and gone. Students made the trek back home this weekend to face the continuation of school and normal, everyday life. While most students made trips to the beach to enjoy a week off, an astounding number of them stayed home, most likely due to the economy.

According to Tripadvisor.com, a poll of 1,000 students showed an estimated 65 percent staying home, primarily due to the struggling economy.

However, those students that stayed home were still able to find popular activities to do in Tuscaloosa to make Spring Break enjoyable.

A popular area for fun is Midtown Village. Opened in the fall of 2007, the plaza offers a wide array of interesting stores, such as Barnes and Noble, MovieStop, and the always popular Starbucks. Restaurants such as Iguana

Grill, Panera Bread and Five Guys Burgers and Fries provide anyone with more than enough delicious food and great atmosphere for a memorable and enjoyable occasion. The numerous clothing stores feature exactly what anyone might be looking for, from winter clothing to the beginning of the spring and summer seasons.

Shelton State student Courtney Watkins thoroughly enjoys the atmosphere at Midtown. "You could start on one side of the village and do some shopping, then head over to Panera Bread for lunch. Then continue shopping

est film releases.

During this year's spring break, the Cobb saw such new releases as *I Love You, Man*, *Duplicity*, and *The Last House on the Left*.

From the concessions stand to the speedy and courteous service to even the all-around pleasant atmosphere, the Cobb should top anyone's list of fun during Spring Break.

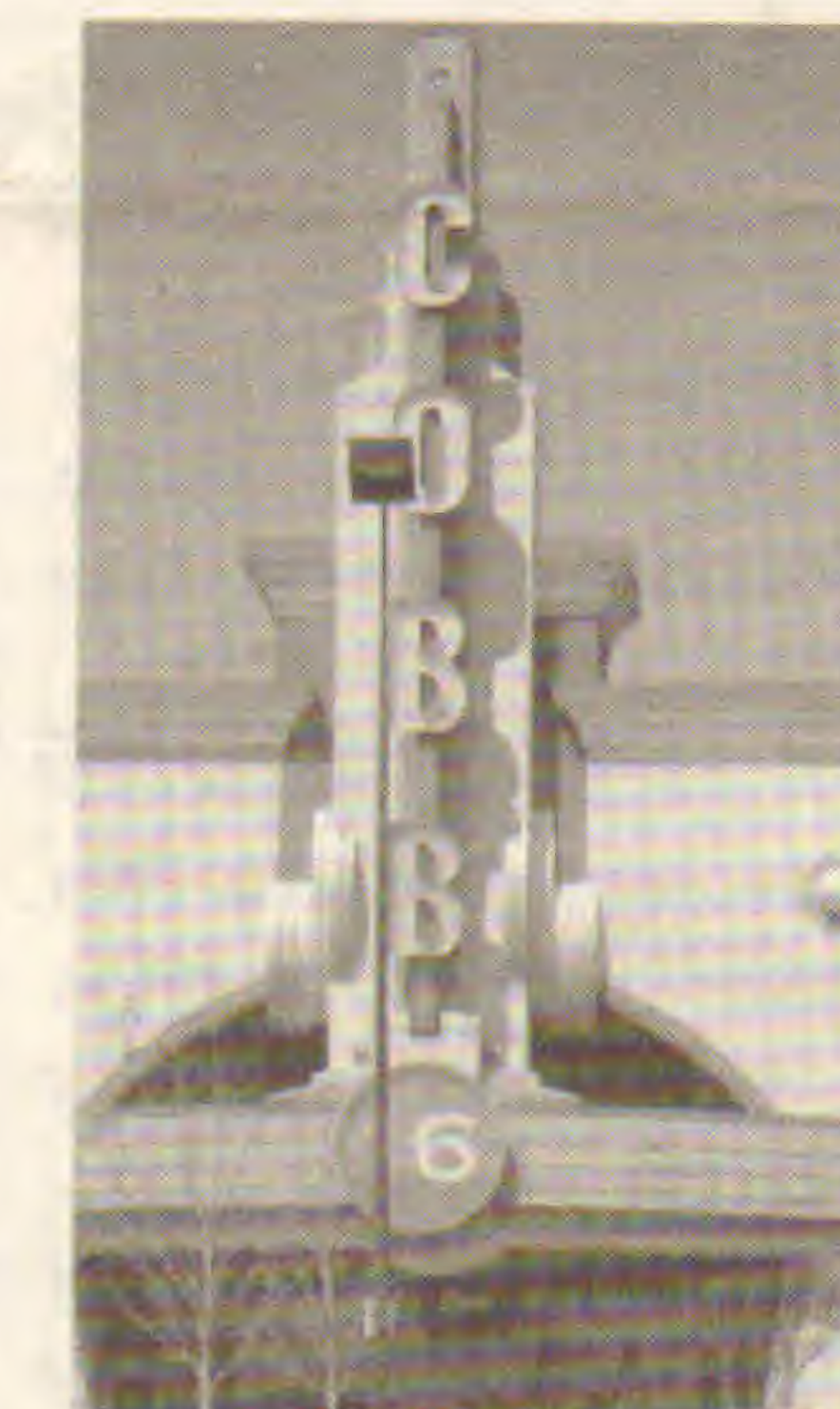
Cobb manager Mario Evans agrees. "The theater is a great place to hang out with friends. Students can come to relax and have no worries, whether it's during spring break or not," says Evans.

A Rite of Passage? By Victoria Corley

Once a year, thousands of college students flock to the sand to relieve stress and have fun. The beaches that most students in the South run ti are on the gulf coast. Beautiful and calming, these beaches turn into a mad house when students take over.

The number one danger to any spring-breaker is alcohol. A substance that has become so taboo to minors is the first thing that comes to mind when planning a spring break trip. "Where can we go that we can drink and not get in trouble?" is the first thing that comes out of the students' mouths. It's a sad reality, but that's what seems to make the trip so much fun.

Alcohol is dangerous, and beach-goers seem to be oblivious to this fact when they are on spring break. The ritual of getting drunk on your spring break trip is almost a rite of passage for many students. But this passage almost always seems to cause troubles.



and call some friends to meet you at Longhorn's or Iguana Grill for an early dinner. It's definitely a relaxing way to spend your days during Spring Break," he says.

For those students who did not feel like walking around the plaza, the next destination was most likely the Cobb Hollywood 16 Theater. For the last four-and-a-half years, the Cobb movie theater has entertained hundreds of thousands of guests with the lat-



best choice was to go to the site "Youtube." I looked and looked until I found the one version I could play and sing

Shel-Shots



The two-time national champion cheerleading squad from Shelton State got another chance to display their skills during the state championship basketball games held at Wallace of Hanceville in March.



Kudos to the T-News and Andrew Carroll who travelled to Hanceville for Shelton's championship runs.



The Wellness Center's annual pre-Break health fair once again attracted a wide variety of displays and participants.



The crowds are bigger than ever and the laughs louder and longer, so why does education instructor and comedian Dr. Allen Mallory have to give out door prizes at his annual comedy show? It's all for a good cause: Shelton Alumni scholarships.

Tommy Dockery of the Alabama Department of Public Health got everyone's attention at the recent "Are You Ready?" conference and public lecture presentations at the college by sharing the relevant numbers that would come into play during a pandemic such as from the bird flu. One chilling tactic: the need for many infected to recuperate at home, since the hospitals would all be overwhelmed with patients.



Infrastructure

(A series about how the college is put together)

By Holly Elliott, Martha Key and Lisa Waldrop

The Counseling Center in the atrium of Shelton State is much more and—at times—a bit less than what meets the eye.

Although it has one name, it possesses three main functions: academic counseling of current and prospective students, recruitment of new students and assessment—or testing.

At times, students also come in for help with their personal problems. “We’re not equipped to handle those,” explains Martha Key, director of the assessment area within the Counseling Center, “but we would never just turn people away. We try to direct hurting students to the correct outside agency.”

Assessment

All of the assessment staff helps to administer the assessments (tests of some sort). During peak assessment times, the assessment

staff recruits other employees from the Counseling Center to help with testing. The assessment staff also is cross-trained to help with whatever activities are going on in the Counseling Center.

“We help with every S.T.A.R.T. Up Day, registration and advising activity. S.T.A.R.T. Up Day stands for Special Time for Advising, Registration, and Touring the Campus).

Key, who concentrates on testing normally, says she truly enjoys the opportunities to get away from the office and onto the trail of new students. “Recruiting in the high schools is something that we all enjoy helping with,” she said. “We each have high school that we are responsible for to get information and materials distributed to prospective students.”

Assessment Staff is comprised of Martha Key, director; Debbie Barton, Wanda Jennings, Jan Rogers, and Katherine Williams.

Some of the assessments administered through the



Most of the staff of the Counseling Center gather about the entrance just inside the atrium at Shelton State. Staff members include (L-R) Kevin Windham, Holly Elliott, Jan Rogers, Debbie Barton, Katherine Williams, Wanda Jennings, Martha Key and Tennyson Smith.

Counseling Center are: COMPASS—an ACT® computerized placement assessment for all new students who do not have ACT/SAT scores high enough to place them into college-level courses.

“In 2008, we administered over 2,600 of these exams,” Key said. Exams are usually given at least three times a week to include a morning, afternoon and night session.

COMPASS measures a student’s skills in math, writing and reading. Students receive their placement results immediately after completing the assessment. There is not a charge for the first time a student completes the assessment.

Students have the option to retest one time on each of the three portions of the test.

If students wish to retest, they are charged \$8 per test. Someone wishing to take the placement exam should visit the Counseling Center or call 205.391.2232.

Another assessment is the CPAT—an ACT written test offered for anyone who does not have a high school diploma

or GED and wishes to enroll into an Ability to Benefit (ATB) program.

No fee is charged for the exam and examinees may test more than one time.

Someone wishing to take the CPAT exam should visit the Counseling Center or call 205.391.2232.

After passing the CPAT exam, students may receive federal financial assistance if they meet the other financial aid qualifications. Upon passing the CPAT exam, students may enroll into one of these programs: automotive body repair, carpentry, commercial art, commercial food service, diesel mechanics, heavy equipment operator or welding.

National ACT®

Shelton State assessment staff helps to administer the ACT national exam.

“In 2008, we helped to test approximately 2,500 students,” Key said. Upcoming dates for the ACT are April 4 and June 13. A new test date is being added to the national testing schedule. Beginning

in the fall of 2009, ACT will offer September testing at Shelton State for the ACT test nationwide.

Another test is the biology exam—a computerized exam offered to students who wish to exempt BIO 103 and enroll into BIO 201.

The exam costs \$26.25. Students receive their results immediately after completing the exam. Students who wish to take the exam, should visit the Counseling Center or call 205.391.2232.

Recruitment

The basic goal of the Office of Recruitment within the Counseling Center is to continually work to increase and enhance the student population at Shelton State Community College.

With emphasis on both traditional and non-traditional students, this objective is achieved in a variety of ways. This area is directed by Lisa Waldrop.

Traditional

Student Recruitment

Recruiters utilize year-round, working relationships



Conferring over a student who has just dropped by the Counseling Center are Tennyson Smith, the newest staff recruiter/advisor, Holly Elliott, who works most closely with advising, and Sandi Bigham, the Counseling Center receptionist.

the Counseling Center

with high school counselors to sustain a constant flow of information about the College.

Throughout the academic school year, contacts are made through College Fairs as well as private visits to high schools. This connection is maintained through publications, (viewbook, catalog, campus tour mailouts, etc.), campus tours, electronic newsletters, as well as personal communication via telephone and email.

Non-Traditional Student Recruitment

The recruitment process for the non-traditional student is identical in terms of publications, campus tours, and personal communication. Participation in community events and programs (Adult Education, GED, Hispanic Providers Network, etc.) allows further exposure often with specific emphasis on career technical areas.

The Office of Recruitment provides opportunities for students to discuss transfer and career options with admissions personnel from various four-year institutions at the annual Transfer Day program.

Additionally, the Office of Recruitment hosts area and extended area High School Counselors and Principals at the annual Shelton State Holiday Breakfast. "This

event grows each year and is designed to inform high school officials about the programs and possibilities available at our beautiful Shelton State," says Waldrop.

The Office of Recruitment encourages all students to stay informed by joining the Facebook group: Shelton State Community College - Dreams Fulfilled Here!

Advising

At the core of the Counseling Center is the college's effort to make sure students are taking the right classes and making progress toward a degree—or some other educational goal. This area is directed by Holly Elliott.

"As for my areas of responsibility, I direct all activities associated with START UP days and advising," Elliott explained.

"As for advising, we see students year round on a walk-in basis. Any students who have an advising question are welcome to come to the Counseling Center and we work with them according to their program of study.

"We also work closely with the ORI 101 classes (the orientation class) to provide accurate advising information to new students during their first semester. We go into each ORI 101 class and assist

students with the process of planning for their time here at Shelton, explain to them the importance of having an academic plan and the benefits of graduation," Elliott explained.

A Trust—Not Just a Profession

Discussions with everyone who works in the Counseling Center indicate that all the staff are not only aware of student needs, but also seem to take their jobs as an important trust in the realm of higher education.

"Many students are scared about the prospect of taking a placement exam before enrolling in classes," Key said, echoing most everybody else who works with students who are trying to figure out how they fit into the college's academic scene.

"Our entire assessment staff makes a concentrated effort to alleviate any fears they may have. We carefully explain the testing procedures, offer test-taking suggestions, and if a student lacks basic computer skills, we help them navigate the testing system.

Key, who has spent several years in different roles in the college, earned her masters degree in Higher Education in 2003.

Key seems to have fallen into an area she truly loves in her work at the Counseling Center. "In Student Services, we have the opportunity to try and make a difference in people's life," she said in summary.

Key continued, "I like to work with the non-traditional students that enroll at Shelton. Many of them are fearful of the college environment when they first arrive. I had one student tell me that she sat in the car for over one hour before she got the courage to come into the Counseling Center.

"I explained the admissions process to the student and before leaving that afternoon, the student was so excited about the prospect of

attending college. The student did enroll and graduated from Shelton State with honors. I attended her graduation and was very proud when she walked across the stage. I am not sure who was smiling the most—the student or me. I know that Shelton made a difference in this person's life."

Tennyson Smith is the newest counseling professional in the office, having come aboard last October.

"I enjoy working in the counseling center because of my wonderful co-workers," he said with a wide—but seemingly genuine—smile.

"Being a recruiter and academic advisor enables me to reach students in what I call 'the process and outcome,' which is: recruit, apply, register, advise, and graduate.

"I am reminded while helping each student that without the student, I have no



Nursing director Kim Smith consults with counselor Holly Elliott.

job. As a new employee, I am learning the policies and procedures but applying the car salesman approach. I am building clientele while helping one student at a time," Smith said.

"I am most satisfied when a student asks for my help again because I delivered great customer service the first time."



Lisa Waldrop spends much of her day on the phone speaking with counselors and teachers at Alabama schools. Waldrop heads up the recruitment efforts at Shelton State.



Director of Assessment Martha Key presides over a session in the Test Center at Shelton State.

the

Baseball and softball in mid-season push

As of late March, both the baseball and softball teams were progressing well and looking forward to the post-season.

As of March 24 the baseball team had posted a record of 18-11. The softball team was 14-5, and 1-1 in the Alabama Community College Conference.

The Shelton State baseball team swept a doubleheader against Wallace-Hanceville on Sunday March 22, taking the first game, 13-8, and the second, 3-2.

Shelton took the lead in the fourth inning. Brett Whitaker paced the Bucs with two hits and four RBIs. John David Smelser and Nick Vickerson also had two hits and helped score runs in the first game. In the second game, Josh Wirsberger got the win, pitching a complete game and allowing two runs on four hits.

In the first game, the Buccaneers got down 3-0 in the first inning, but answered

in the bottom of the first to tie the score at 3.

Shelton took the lead in the fourth inning and never looked back.

Brett Whitaker paced the Bucs with two hits, including a double, and four RBIs. John David Smelser had two hits and scored two runs while Nick Vickerson had two hits, scored a run and drove in a run.

John McKinney earned the win, pitching 1 2/3 innings, allowing one run and one walk. Whitaker pitched 12/3 inning to earn the save.

In the second game, Shelton State dug itself a hole early, falling behind 2-0 in the first inning.

The Bucs tied the score a 2 in the sixth inning. Vickerson led off the inning with a single and Justin Diliberto later singled with one out and Cayleb Coker walked with two outs to load the bases. Coy Arrowhead came through with a two-run single to make it a 2-2 score.

Softball

Shelton State winning pitcher Becky Pekera threw seven scoreless innings as it won game one of the Gadsden Invitational against Snead State on Sunday, 10-0.

Pekera held Snead State to two hits and had five strikeouts.

Shelton's Sheena Jordan was 3-for-5. Hannah Terry went 3-for-4 and Lindsey Skinner had a home run.

Shelton State 2,
Bevill State 0

Shelton State's Paige Noles pitched three no-hit innings of relief as winning pitcher in game two of the invitational against Bevill State.

Shelton's Sheena Jordan was 2-for-4 and Randi Davis went 2-for-2.

Shelton State 3,
Gadsden State 1

Shelton State's Nicole Morrison got the win, going seven innings and giving up one run on five hits with five

strikeouts in game three of Shelton's tripleheader.

Sheena Jordan went 2-for-4 and Lindsey Skinner was 3-for-3.

After this victory, the team was Shelton State 15-2.

Baseball

Northwest Shoals 7, 3
Shelton State 2, 0

The Shelton State baseball team lost both games of a doubleheader to Northwest-Shoals on Sunday. The Bucs lost the first game, 7-2, and the second game, 3-0.

Jonathan Smart took the loss for Shelton State in game one. He allowed six runs (five earned) on eight hits and struck out four. Shelton's Clay Jones had home run, his third of the year.

Softball

During the 2008 season the Shelton State Softball team finished with a 35-16 record. The Lady Buccaneers look to improve on the school record for wins and

take the program to another level. Playing in the tough ACCC Central, the 2009 Shelton State team will use a mixture of seasoned sophomores and talented freshmen to continue building on the success of the 2008 campaign.

The outfield features two speedy All-Region performers from last year. Lindsey Skinner was a second team All-Region selection last year. She hit .412 with 3 homeruns and 25 RBI. Alex Whisner was also a second team All-Region selection and will patrol alongside Skinner as well as play infield. Whisner hit .409 and had 27 RBI's and stole 17 bases. "Skinner and Whisner give us experience in the outfield," Head Coach Buddy Boyle said.

Coach Boyle is hard at work establishing a winning attitude within his team. "The tradition established in 2008 is highly respected by this year's team and they understand what it means to play here."

Women's

cont'd from pg. 1

XXII representative to the NJCAA Tournament, which began March 17 in Salina, Kans.

In Kansas, the team acquitted themselves the best ever.

Shelton State enjoyed its second consecutive Saturday appearance at the national tourney, and actually finished one spot higher than a year ago, taking sixth in this year's event.

Unfortunately that program-best placement meant their 2008-09 season ended with 67-52 loss to Walters State Community College of Tennessee.

"I just wish we could have performed a little bit better today, made it a little closer at the end - at least be in a position to win it," Thompson told the press after the game.

Shelton (30-6) not only had to play three games in a 48-hour span early in the tournament, but also had to compete against teams ranked sec-

ond, third and sixth in the NJCAA national poll entering tournament play.

The sophomore class finished its two-year run with a 61-11 record, two national tournament trips and a pair of Saturday appearances once they got there.

"It's hard that we lost, but at the same time, we had a successful season," said sophomore point guard China Antoine, who paced the Lady Bucs with 14 points in the finale. "At the beginning of the season, nobody thought we could make it this far. We're proud of each other."



In the Lady Buccaneers' championship game in Hanceville, Shelton survived to win its fourth title in a row.

Men's

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was missed.

The team was tired during practice because we had no substitutions. Each day we still had to push ourselves to get better.

So there we were going into our first game of the state tournament with people wondering how the outcome would be without the injured players. The players really focused and the only thing they had on their minds was to win.

Coach Mohun came in the locker room and talked to us before the game he told us when we step out on the court to think about the players who were wishing they were there to play.

During the state tournament games the injured players were there supporting the team. So we went on the court and everyone played like it was their last game and from then on

every time we stepped on the court for the state tournament we performed well and we won the championship.

Winning the championship we were able to advance to the National Basketball tournament which was held in Hutchinson, Kan.

The team was fortunate to have three of the injured players to travel to Kansas, and two of the injured players were able to play.

We went into the National tournament with the record of 31-2 with 16 of the 18 players on the roster dressed out. We were defeated the first game and that ended our 31 game winning streak. The players



During their stay in Hutchinson, Kans., the Buccaneers, and especially Paul McGill, enjoyed their visits to local schools.

on the team were upset because we felt we could have won, so we came out the next game really ready to play.

We won the second game and lost the third game, and that ended our season, but every game was played hard.

In our only win in the national tournament, we came from being down a dozen points, and I was able to pull off an old playground trick to help salt away the victory. Up two with just seconds to play, we couldn't get the ball into play, so I bounced it off the backside of the Southwestern Illinois College player's backside and put in a reverse layup for the 74-70 win.

The Shelton State basketball team of 08-09 will be remembered for the longest win streak in the team's history and for the longest win streak of the year nationally. We enjoyed playing as a team and when it came time to lose, we lost as a team with our heads high.